

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 06129 220138Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 INSE-00 PA-01 ICA-11

VO-05 CA-01 /049 W

-----015607 220145Z /63

P R 220101Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5681

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 6129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON REFUGEES AT  
PATTAYA ASEAN MEETING JUNE 14

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5859

1. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL, EMBASSY RECEIVED CORRECTED VERSION OF FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN'S REMARKS ON REFUGEES IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING AT PATTAYA, THAILAND, JUNE 14. WHEREAS THE ORIGINAL TEXT DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY READ AS NOTED REFTEL, I.E., RITHAUDDEEN EXPRESSING THE GOM VIEW THAT "THE (INDOCHINESE REFUGEE) MATTER SHOULD BE TACKLED AT SOURCE (SIC) TO REDUCE OR PREVENT THE OUTFLOW AND THERE MUST BE MORE READINESS ON THE PART OF COUNTRIES ABLE TO DO SO TO ABSORB THE REFUGEES THAT HAVE COME THROUGH," THE CORRECTED VERSION DELETED THE REFERENCE TO TACKLING THE MATTER AT ITS SOURCE TO REDUCE OR PREVENT THE OUTFLOW.

2. AN AUTHORITATIVE MFA SOURCE TOLD US JUNE 20 THAT THE LOCAL  
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PAGE 02 KUALA 06129 220138Z

PRESS HAD BASED THEIR STORIES ON THE EARLIER EMBARGOED TEXT RELEASED JUNE 13 RATHER THAN THE "AS DELIVERED" VERSION.

3. COMMENT. OUR MFA SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE INITIAL INCLINATION OF THE GOM WAS TO INDICATE ITS DEEP CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUING INFLUX OF REFUGEE BOATS VIA A THINLY-VEILED HINT TO THE SRV TO REINFORCE MEASURES TO PREVENT REFUGEES DEPARTURES.

HOWEVER, THE MALAYSIANS APPARENTLY HAD SEOND THOUGHTS ABOUT POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION OF THIS AND THEREFORE DROPPED THE IDEA. ANOTHER MFA SOURCE INDICATED SOME SENSITIVITY TO HOW IT MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD SPECIFICALLY IN THE US.

4. HOWEVER, ONE MFA SOURCE IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH  
EMBOFF JUNE 20 DID SAY THAT MFA HAD APPROACHED THE SRV AMBASSADOR  
IN KUALA LUMPUR "RECENTLY" TO REQUEST THAT VIETNAM TAKE STEPS  
TO REDUCE THE OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES. THE AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY  
EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH THE GOM CONCERNS BUT PLEADED AN INABILITY  
TO EFFECTIVELY CONTROL THE REFUGEE FLOW BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY  
IN POLICING SUCH A LONG COAST LINE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KUALA06129  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2250445  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MALAYSIAN FOREING MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON REFUGEES AT PATTAYA ASEAN MEETING JUNE 14  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014